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10/042106  
01/07/02

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re:

Serial No.:                      to be assigned                      Filing Date:                      January 7, 2002

Entitled:                      SYSTEM AND APPARATUS FOR THE STORAGE AND  
DISPENSING OF ITEMS

Applicant:                      Broadfield, et al.                      Atty. Docket No.:                      PYX3019C1

Prior Appl. Nos.:              1) 09/087,388                      Examiner in Prior Appls.              G. Crawford  
   2) 09/589,552

Prior Appl. Filing Date:              1) ('388) May 29, 1998              Art Unit in Prior Appl.              3651  
   2) ('552) June 7, 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
BOX – PATENT APPLICATION (FEE)  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.10(A)**

Date of Deposit: 1/7/02

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service, as Express Mail No. EL 867967217 US in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, BOX – PATENT APPLICATION (FEE), Washington, D.C. 20231.

*Jennifer Warner*  
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Jennifer Warner

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

As authorized and encouraged under 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98 and the provisions of MPEP §§609 and 707.05(b), Applicants submit herewith certain patent references, publications and/or other information which the Patent and Trademark Office may wish to consider in examining the above-identified patent application. These references and information are listed below and on attached form PTO-1449.

# **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

<b><u>U.S. Patent No.</u></b>	<b><u>Inventor(s)</u></b>
3,481,502	Slayman
4,473,884	Behl
4,693,371	Malpass
4,695,954	Rose et al.
4,718,705	Case
4,724,874	Parikh
4,805,772	Shaw et al.
4,847,764	Halvorson
4,862,870	Fox
4,953,745	Rowlett, Jr.
4,991,759	Scharf
4,995,430	Bonora
5,014,875	McLaughlin et al.
5,025,964	Phirippidis
5,098,141	Bull
5,123,691	Ginn
5,172,097	Arnold
5,172,575	Fisher
5,240,113	Gibilisco
5,245,908	Sanderson
5,253,574	Sanderson
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5,314,243	McDonald et al.
5,320,540	Lwee
5,378,174	Brownlie et al.
5,419,305	Hanley
5,431,299	Brewer et al.
5,445,294	Gardner et al.
5,489,039	Brownlie
5,564,805	Dickinson
5,576,741	Johnson et al.
5,629,662	Floyd et al.
5,715,586	Citron et al.
5,715,658	Citron et al.
5,715,923	Dekker et al.
5,735,034	Citron et al.
5,740,845	Bonora et al.
5,745,366	Higham et al.

## **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

None

## **OTHER DOCUMENTS**

None

A copy of each document is included for the express purpose of providing the Patent and Trademark Office with ample opportunity to evaluate the same and arrive at an independent assessment of the materiality of each, if any, to the examination of the above-identified application.

In reviewing the enclosed copies of the above documents, the Examiner is instructed to ignore any underscoring or highlighting which may have been done because such markings may or may not have any relationship to the subject matter of the above-identified application. The copies being submitted with this Information Disclosure Statement are the best copies available at this time.

The identification of any document herein is not intended to be, and should not be understood as being an admission that each such document, in fact, constitutes "prior art" within the meaning of applicable law.

Applicants submit this statement in accordance with their duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56. This statement is filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c), after the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of either a final action or a Notice of Allowance.

Applicants respectfully request that the documents cited herein be made of record in the normal manner and that such documents appear on the printed patent as being considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1/7/02

By: \_\_\_\_\_



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FORM PTO-1449 TO BE FILED WITH  
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Patent and Trademark Office

Atty. Docket No.: PYX3019C1

Serial No.: unassigned

INFORMATION  
DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
BY APPLICANTS

Broadfield et al.

Applicant

January 7, 2002  
Filing Date

3651  
Group Art Unit

G. Crawford  
Examiner's Name

<u>Examiner's Initials</u>	<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Inventor(s)</u>	<u>Class/Sub-class</u>
	3,481,502	12/69	Slayman	217/42
	4,473,884	09/84	Behl	364/479
	4,693,371	09/87	Malpass	206/538
	4,695,954	09/87	Rose et al.	364/413
	4,718,705	01/88	Case	292/201
	4,724,874	02/88	Parikh et al.	141/098
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	4,847,764	07/89	Halvorson	364/413.02
	4,862,870	09/89	Fox	126/197
	4,953,745	09/90	Rowlett, Jr.	221/5
	4,991,759	02/91	Scharf	224/217
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	5,489,039	02/96	Brownlie	220/335
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	5,576,741	11/96	Johnson et al.	346/145
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	5,715,586	02/98	Citron et al.	29/407.1
	5,715,658	02/98	Citron et al.	53/492
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	5,745,366	04/98	Higham et al.	364/479.12
	6,004,020	12/99	Bartur	364/479.06
	6,011,999	01/00	Holmes	700/231

#### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

None

#### OTHER DOCUMENTS

None

Examiner:	Date Considered:
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Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

The identification of any document herein is not intended to be, and should not be understood as being an admission that each such document, in fact, constitutes "prior art" within the meaning of applicable law since, for example, a given document may have a later effective date than at first seems apparent or the document may have an effective date which can be antedated. The "prior art" status of any document is a matter to be resolved during prosecution.

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